Though there was demand for the formation of new Societies, it was not considered desirable to increase their number without due regard to the condition of their resources. Excluding the members of the Central Bank, the number of members in these Societies rose from 2,005 to 2,796. With a view to avoid the danger of allowing Credit Societies to assume unmanageable size, action was taken to prescribe a limit for membership in some of the Primary Societies till they were able to establish good business reputation. The paid up capital of the Societies rose from Bh. Rs. 24,710 to Bh. Rs. 30,574 and the promoters of the Societies are reported to have been willing to supply funds out of the resources at their disposal. Government are glad to note that the encouragement of small loans, the enforcement of punctuality in repayments and the readiness on the part of the members to a strict adherence to the provisions of the bye-laws were the prominent characteristics of non-agricultural Societies during the year. Unfortunately, the work turned out by the Trivandrum Central Co-operative Bank alone was far from satisfactory and the Registrar has been asked to look into the condition of that Bank closely. The first co-operative conference was held at Mavelikara in Medam 1093, at which important questions affecting the co-operative movement were discussed and resolutions passed.

27. Public Works.—The total expenditure on public works amounted to Rs. 26,31,267. The cost of maintenance of roads has been steadily growing from year to year, owing to the rapidly increasing wheeled traffic in the country and the gradual rise in the cost of materials and labour. Large sums are also being spent on improvements to roads. There has been a steady improvement in the lighting of canals and backwaters and no complaints are now received in regard to the shallowness of navigable canals. In view of the increased demand on Kodayar water to balance the inequalities of the incidence of rainfall, it has become necessary to extend the storage capacity of the reservoir and an investigation is in progress to this end.

28. Railway.—Since the close of February 1918, two trains have been running between Quilon and Trivandrum every day. The financial prospects of the new line are encouraging. The working of the Travancore Branch of the South Indian Railway from Tinnevelly to Trivandrum for the first half of 1918-1919 ending with the 30th September 1918, has not only covered the entire interest charges on the original line up to Quilon, but has also left a balance of Bh. Rs. 96,726, to pay up the interest charges of the State on the extension to Trivandrum, which amount to Bh. Rs. 98,636 at 4 per cent. on the Capital. An estimate was sanctioned for providing third class passenger accommodation at all the intermediate stations between Quilon and Trivandrum. The extension of the line to the pier at Valiatura is under the consideration of Government and the final location survey of the extension is already completed. A new station under the designation of Bhagavatipuram was opened at Puliyara in the Shencottah taluk on the Shencottah-Quilon line and the provision of a goods siding for the loading and unloading of fuel at this station is under consideration.

29. Anchal.—The existing Anchal Rules have been thoroughly revised and a new set of rules issued under Regulation IX of 1089.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

30. Sanitary Department.—The Sanitary Circles, reconstituted in 1089, have been further revised since the close of 1093, with a view to ensure efficiency in the verification of vaccination. The death-rate during 1093 showed a regrettable rise from 14·1 to 15·7 per mille of population, and cholera and smallpox raged virulently in several parts of the State, causing the mortality of 1,129 and 1,514 persons respectively. The mortality from fevers also showed an increase from 4·18 to 4·96 per mille. Smallpox and influenza have not yet altogether disappeared, while the prevalence of cholera even now gives room for anxiety. Government

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are doing everything in their power to combat this dire disease. The supply of free medicines, the deputation of special medical officers and the opening of medical institutions during all hours of the day have been arranged and it is for the people to take adequate advantage of the help thus afforded.

31. Municipal Government.—Since the close of 1093, the rate-payers of the towns of Colachel, Attungal, Mavelikara, Changanachery and Vaikom have been granted the privilege of electing four out of the seven non-official members of the respective Committees, so that at present all the 19 Town Improvement Committees in the State have a majority of their non-official members elected by the people. Non-official Presidents have been newly appointed for the Committees of Nagercoil and Mavelikara and a non-official Vice-President for the Committee of Kuzhittura. The system of compulsory vaccination has been extended to the towns of Kuzhittura, Vaikom, Parur and Tiruvalla. A set of rules has been passed for the regular inspection, by the Sanitary Commissioner, of the work of Town Improvement Committees in respect of matters relating to sanitation, vaccination and vital statistics. The new Municipal Bill, conferring considerably enhanced powers on Municipal Councils, has been considered in detail by the Legislative Council and is now awaiting final reading. When that enactment is placed on the statute book, ample opportunities will present themselves to the Municipalities to augment their resources and improve the moral and material condition of the people in the different towns. The question of the formation of local Boards for the benefit of rural areas is also under the consideration of Government.

32. Medical Department.—Steps have been taken for the opening of new dispensaries at Taikattuseri and Cape Comorin, and a weekly branch dispensary has been opened at Santanpara in the High Range under the management of the Udumbanshola Medical Officer. The Fort Dispensary at Trivandrum has been raised to a hospital.

33. Department of Ayurveda.—The Department of Ayurveda has been thoroughly reorganised. The main features of the reorganisation are the revision of the curricula of studies in the Ayurveda Patasala on an up to date and scientific basis to suit modern requirements, the opening of a botanical garden for the cultivation of medicinal plants, and the establishment of an Ayurvedic Pharmacy and an Ayurvedic Hospital and Dispensary at Trivandrum. The Dispensary has been doing very useful work from the day of its opening on the 18th Karkadakam 1093, the number of out-patients treated during the first five months of 1094 reaching the high figure of 10,474. Till recently the Pharmacy merely supplied medicines for free distribution at the Dispensary, but arrangements have now been made for the sale of medicines to those who are willing to purchase them, the prices charged being cheap and intended to cover only the cost of preparation. The benefits of this system are fully appreciated by the public, as will be seen from the fact that during Vrischikam and Dhanu 1094, the first two months when it was in operation, medicines to the value of Rs. 448 were purchased from the Pharmacy.

EDUCATION.

34. General Statistics.—The number of recognised institutions in the State rose from 2,508 in 1092 to 2,828 in 1093 and their strength from 3,48,986 to 3,75,448, showing an increase of 320 schools and 26,462 scholars. On an average, there was one recognised school for every 2·5 square miles and 1,212 inhabitants, against 3·05 and 1,367 respectively in 1092. Private aided schools rose in number and strength from 1,264 and 1,19,280 to 1,394 and 1,35,697, and private unaided schools from 169 and 13,980 to 346 and 24,424 respectively. The non-departmental institutions thus increased in number by 21·4 per cent. and in strength by 20 per cent. As compared with these, the increase in the number of departmental schools from 1,075 to 1,088 was little more than nominal, while their strength showed a slight decline from 2,15,726 to 2,15,327. The increase in the number of private institutions and the steady accession to their strength tend to prove that the policy of the Government

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